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absence of all littleness in him is found in the fact that he would receive information or take corrections even from his students, saying, "I am willing to learn from any one."

He was simple and temperate in his habits of life, and fond of innocent jokes and amusements. He had a remarkable faculty for languages. On one occasion, at an international chemical dinner, he made speeches in five languages, — German, English, French, Italian, and Spanish. In person he was of middle height, with an extraordinary depth of chest, and a figure massive rather than either large or stout. His forehead was high, crowned with waving hair, and in his earlier days he wore a mustache and small pointed beard, afterwards replaced by a full beard.

He has left very tender and affectionate memories in the hearts of a multitude of students, who will remember their chemical father as long as they live; and when all of these are gone, his works will still stand, his enduring monument.

1893.

CHARLES LORING JACKSON.

SIR RICHARD OWEN.

WHEN SIR RICHARD OWEN died, full of years and honors, on December 18, 1892, the last prominent representative of the old school of comparative anatomists passed away. For about fifty-six of his eighty-eight years he was actively devoted to the science which he loved so well and served so truly. Born at Lancaster on July 20, 1804, he took his medical diploma at the Royal College of Surgeons in 1822, and began the practice of medicine. His dissections when a student had attracted the notice of Abernethy, who procured for him the work of cataloguing the preparations of the Hunterian Museum in 1828. The consequences of this appointment were momentous both for him and for science. It brought him into the intimacy of a relative of John Hunter, Mr. Clift, who was then the chief Curator. Owen married his daughter, and thus naturally, as it were, became the follower of the renowned founder of the Museum. Hunter's mantle could not have fallen on worthier shoulders. It is easy to conceive that an office so attractive to an anatomist boded no good to his success as a practitioner. In a few years he withdrew from the profession he had first chosen, to devote himself wholly to science. In

1830 he read a paper on the Ourang before the new committee on science of the Zoölogical Society, which marked the beginning of the scientific activity of that Society. At the age of thirty he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society; and in 1834 he had the signal honor of being chosen the first Hunterian Professor at the Royal College of Surgeons. He held this position till 1856, when he was appointed Superintendent of the Natural History Department of the British Museum. Here he found himself confronted with the great difficulty which has baffled so many curators before and since, — want of space. We cannot go into the history of his arduous struggle for what he felt was necessary; suffice it to say, it is largely to him that the collection of Natural History of the British Museum owes its magnificent new home at South Kensington. He resigned this position at wellnigh fourscore years, in 1883. Though he retired early from the practice of medicine, he served more than once or twice on boards dealing with sanitary questions. He was on the commission to inquire into the health of towns in 1843 and in 1846. He wrote a special report on the condition of his native town, Lancaster, in 1848. He was on the Board of Health of the metropolis in 1846 and 1848. This is by no means the full list of his services of this nature. When one remembers the vast amount of original research he was always engaged in, his mental activity seems indeed phenomenal. From the beginning of his writing with, if we mistake not, the first instalment of the "Catalogue of the Hunterian Museum," in 1830, catalogue, book, and memoir followed one another in constant succession. His writings did not wholly cease even with his final retirement from office. The range of his studies was enormous. In 1832 appeared his memoir on the "Pearly Nautilus," and in 1885 was completed his "History of the British Reptiles," in three volumes. His researches were not confined to organisms visible to the naked eye. He was the first to put in its proper place the *Trichina Spiralis*. Among his more important works may be mentioned his "Odontography," "The Archetype and Homologies of the Vertebrate Skeleton," and his "Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates."

Wonderful has been the progress in science during the long period of Owen's activity. Perhaps even more wonderful is the entire change of lines of thought and of methods of study since the promulgation of the Darwinian hypothesis. This event

occurred when Owen was passing out of middle age. It is no wonder that he looked at the matter conservatively. In the early days of the theory it was not so clear as now that all evolution is not Darwinism. Many evolutionists would now hesitate to say that he was wrong. The tendency of earlier and cruder evolution was to throw utterly aside all respect for such works as that on the "Archetype." Indeed, the extravagances of visionaries like Oken had paved the way for a reaction. Professor Owen was essentially a devout man. He saw in nature plan and law, and through these the Creator. He wrote as follows in the Preface to his *Comparative Anatomy*: "In the second aim, the parts and organs, severally the subjects of these chapters, are exemplified by instances selected with a view to guide or help to the power of apprehending the unity which underlies the diversity of animal structures; to show in these structures the evidence of a predetermining Will, producing them in reference to a final purpose; and to indicate the direction and degrees in which organization, in subserving such Will, rises from the general to the particular." In spite of his singleness of purpose Owen's strong point was neither in controversy nor in philosophy. He excelled in his powers of observation and in his capacity for work. Theories and systems may rise and fall, but his descriptions of living and extinct forms may remain the standard of instruction for generations.

1893.

THOMAS DWIGHT.

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON.

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON, a Foreign Honorary Member of the Academy in Class III., Section 4, since 1876, died at Aldworth in Surrey on the 6th of October, 1892.

Alfred Tennyson was born at Somersby Rectory in Lincolnshire on the 6th of August, 1809, the son of the Reverend George Clayton Tennyson. He early showed a love of poetry, and when little more than eighteen years old found a publisher for a volume of poems written in connection with his brother. This poetic flight was promptly followed by others, including, in 1829, a college prize poem on the subject of Timbuctoo. These early poems are smooth and pleasant, good-boyish verses, far better than most productions of the kind.

In 1830 appeared "Poems, chiefly Lyrical," — a volume con-